

Nicole Murati Ferrer
Chairperson

Mark Melo
City Electrician

Terrence James Shea
Superintendent of Streets

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139



POLE AND CONDUIT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.

By Remote Participation Via Zoom

This meeting was held remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor.

Commissioner Members (All Present): Nicole Murati Ferrer, Mark Melon, and Terrence James Shea.

License Commission Staff Present: Cristina Casilli, Administrative Assistant; and Kris Foster, Executive Officer.

Documents Considered: As to all petitions, the Commission considered the application submitted to it and all documents attached thereto.

Decisions: All votes, unless otherwise stated, were taken by roll call vote and were 3-0, unless otherwise indicated. When matters are granted with "typical conditions," those are:

- (1) Must obtain Electrical Department Utility Permit and Department of Public Works ("DPW") Permits and comply with the provisions therein.
- (2) Must pay sidewalk preservation off-set fee.
- (3) Must coordinate site visit with DPW.
- (4) Must commence work within sixty (60) days of the grant and complete within six (6) months of the date of the approval.
- (5) Must comply with any amendment City agencies make to the issued permits after the Acceptance Without Reservations is filed.

1. Eversource request for an extension for GOL #288439, #288441, #288443, #288446 and #288448 related to the Greater Cambridge Energy Program which should have been completed on 10/16/25.

Present: Rick Branca; and Annette Potasz.

Summary: All of these were granted in April 2025. They have been progressing smoothly, to install the conduit in the vaults constructed. Installation less than 6 months since the digging and trenching is complete and that is what usually takes longer.

Decision: Granted six (6) month extension.

2. **New petition (1180433) - Flock Group Inc.**, 1170 Howell Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30318, for the following: Massachusetts Avenue at Brookford Street, Rindge Avenue at Alewife Brook Parkway, Cambridge Street at Hampshire Street, Main Street at Osborn Street, Cardinal Medeiros Avenue at Binney Street, Galileo Galilei Way at Broadway, Memorial Drive at JFK Street, Rindge Avenue at Pemberton Street, Massachusetts Avenue at Memorial Drive, Windsor Street at Hampshire Street,

Cambridge Street at N First Street, Third Street at Gore Street, Hampshire Street at Cambridge Street, Main Street at Broadway, Binney Street at Third Street, Galileo Galilei Way at Broadway - Installation of both AC-powered and solar-powered license plate reader cameras on existing City-owned poles (light poles, traffic signals, surface mount to city-owned buildings) to assist the Cambridge Police Department with criminal investigations. It's for a total of 16 poles.

Present: Hector Soliman-Valdez, Flock.

Summary: They are modifying the existing program, and there is no decision to cancel. Flock's position throughout the process has been to have the community believe that there is value to the technology. While the City, community and Flock get on the same page, the City Council has asked to have the cameras turned off. There was discussion how the cameras were installed, regardless of a lack of grant of location. The petitioner mentioned it being a pilot program but the Commission noted that even pilot programs, like temporary installations, are required to have a grant of location. The petitioner does not have one. There was discussion of the current installations on buildings and poles, all of which required a grant prior to installation.

Alex Marthews confirmed there was an intent to have a meeting to further discuss the installations and cancellation of the program, and that at this time, the program is suspended.

Decision: Continued (2-1, Chair Murati Ferrer voted to deny).

3. New petition (1184338) - FirstLight Fiber Inc., 12 Metro Park Road, Albany, NY 12205, for the following: Concord Avenue at Moulton Street - Starting at existing utility pole #4 on Moulton Street, trench +/- 644 feet southerly to existing Verizon MH #26/566 on Concord Avenue, installing (1) 4-inch PVC conduits and (2) 3'x3' FirstLight manholes on Moulton Street.

Present: Ryan Kunst; and Bill Conway.

Summary: This is to install fiber optic for internet service. There has been a revised drawing submitted showing minimum clearance of 4 feet. There may need to be a mill and overlay and permanent trench on Concord Avenue. Verizon has a riser on Pole 4 and everything on that street is overhead. The pole they propose to rise on is Pole 7. Verizon already has riser on Pole 4. There was a question as to whether Verizon was going to revise/replace. If the pole is not safe, it must be removed. Common trench sent, no one responded.

Decision: Continue to investigate whether excavation is necessary or whether existing conduit can be used, and to address the issue of the poles' safety.

Note: *Petitions 4 & 5 were called together.*

4. New petition (1182884) - Comcast, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Washington Street - Comcast proposes to install (1) 3'x5' manhole over the existing Comcast duct bank on Washington Street and install (2) 4-inch conduits +/-125 feet easterly to the existing Comcast manhole at the intersection with Portland Street. This is a relocation of the Comcast duct bank due to the City of Cambridge project "The Port Infrastructure Phase II".

Present: Shane Flewelling; and John Morgante.

Summary: Trenching around the duct bank towards the curb. Running parallel in two 4 inch conduits. One is being served by fiber optic for outdoor WIFI. There was discussion to relocate the duct bank so it is not in the way and coordination with Public Works. The second conduit for MIT would be for future use of the institute.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that there be coordination with the Department of Public Works.

5. **New petition (1184505) - MIT**, 304 Vassar Street MIT Bldg. W92, Cambridge, MA 02139, for the following: Washington Street - MIT is joining the joint trench with Comcast. MIT proposes to take ownership of (2) of the (4) 4-inch conduits from the proposed Comcast MH on Washington Street +/- 125 feet easterly to the existing ductbank at the intersection of Washington Street and Portland Street.

Present: Shane Flewelling; and John Morgante.

Summary: MIT joining trench with Comcast.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that there be coordination with the Department of Public Works.

6. **New petition (1184332) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Munroe Street - Starting at existing Comcast manhole on Munroe Street, trench +/-30 feet northerly, installing (1) 4-inch conduit to the property line of 125 Munroe Street. This is for a new service connection.

Present: Shane Flewelling.

Summary: This is close to the gutter line. They are essentially going to the property to add new connection/service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

Note: Matters listed as #7 & 8 were called together.

7. **New petition (1185024) - Comcast**, 426 E. First Street, Boston, MA 02127, for the following: Dana Street - Install a new 3'x3' manhole over existing Comcast conduit on Dana Street and excavate +/- 30 feet northerly to the private property line of 45 Dana Street, installing (1) 4-inch conduit. This is for a new underground service connection.

Present: Shane Flewelling; and Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: This would be over Comcast's existing conduit. Coming off the riser pole and going to Broadway, trenching across the roadway. There is a new tech building, a remodel, and they are trying to get in before the roadway gets paved. This is a Chapter 90 project so there needs to be coordination.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that there be coordination with the Department of Public Works.

8. New petition (1184636) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Dana Street - Westerly thence northerly and then westerly from Pole 196/19, south of Broadway Street, to private property at #45 Dana Street, install approximately 64 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia; and Shane Flewelling.

Summary: 45 Dana Street is being rehabbed (it used to be 45-47 Dana and now it is only 45 Dana). This will be considered new service. Pole 19 needs to be removed prior to any new conduit installed. The transformer will be on private property to supply the service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions that there be coordination with the Department of Public Works and double Pole (#19) be removed before any new attachments are made.

9. Continuation from June 26, 2025 to have the petition language and plan cleaned up and ensure the Health and Safety Plan with the corresponding/related petition has been submitted (1168144) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: New Street - Easterly side, approximately 565 feet north of Bay State Road, install one pole 503/12-1X and a new padmount transformer PM28540 on the private property of the City of Cambridge (Danehy Park).

Present: Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: 166 New Street a/k/a Danehy Park. This is for a new 5,000 square foot stand-alone building and electric vehicle charging stations. There needs to be approval from Department Environmental Protection Solid Waste Division to continue the conduit. There was some confusion raised as the conduit on New Street is already installed. This is not proposing excavation work on Danehy Park property. Wooden pole will be installed by Eversource.

Decision: Continued to obtain the Health and Safety Plan and DEP approval.

10. Continuation from August 14, 2025 to allow Eversource Gas to submit any related and necessary corresponding petition, or in the alternative, to appear and respond to the Commission's questions as to whether there is existing conduit that can be used or have the route be amended to avoid such a long dig/trench (1175781) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Vassar Street - Southeasterly from manhole (MHC28575), northeast of Audrey Street, to customer handhole, install approximately 50 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: Electric service gas equipment previously installed. The trench has been shortened to eliminate excavation. Now just 50 feet across the street rather than parallel.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

Note: *Petitions 11 & 12 were called together.*

11. Continuation from November 21, 2024 to perform test pits (1140344) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Cambridge Street and Prospect Street - Northeasterly from MHC348, at corner of Prospect Street and Cambridge Street, to MHC2431, install approximately 54 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: One new manhole to 1035 Cambridge Street. Test pits were performed and uploaded. This is a customer requested upgrade. They currently have overhead and are requesting more service. There was discussion of the conditions requested by Jerry Friendman from the Department of Transportation of the City of Cambridge.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that must coordinate final electric duct bank alignment with the City's consultant.

12. Continuation from November 21, 2024 to perform test pits (1140348) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Columbia Street at Cambridge Street - Northeasterly from MHC2428 at Cambridge Street to private property at 1035 Columbia Street, install approximately 418 feet of conduit and one new manhole, MHC32501.

Present: Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: One new manhole to 1035 Cambridge Street. Test pits were performed and uploaded. This is a customer requested upgrade. They currently have overhead and are requesting more service. They do not want to split the conduit. There was discussion of the conditions requested by Jerry Friendman from the Department of Transportation of the City of Cambridge.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional conditions that: must coordinate final electric duct bank alignment with the City's consultant; must maintain a minimum 4 feet drain line clearance from the curb; and mill and overlay half of the roadway on Columbia Street.

13. New petition (1181994) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Third Street - Southerly then westerly from Monsignor O'Brien Highway to private property at #8 Winter Street, install approximately 58 feet of conduit in Third Street.

Present: Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: This is for new electric service to 80 Winter, at the customer's request.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

14. New petition (1184315) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Mount Auburn Street - Easterly from manhole (MHC1411), approximately 104 feet east of Hawthorne Street, to private property at #159 Mount Auburn Street, install approximately 21 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: This is an electric customer requested service upgrade. It is a regular upgrade from 100 amp to 200 amp service.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions and the additional condition that there be permanent sidewalk restoration.

15. New petition (1184318) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Binney Street - Southerly then turning southwesterly from manhole (MHC3062) to private property at #174 Binney Street, install approximately 35 feet of conduit in Third Street.

Present: Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: This is for new electric service. The customer is Cambridge Redevelopment Authority.

Decision: Granted with typical conditions.

16. New petition (1184651) - Eversource Energy, 101 Linwood Street, Somerville, MA 02143, for the following: Brattle Street - Southwesterly from manhole (MH2143), approximately 83 feet southwest of Kennedy Road, to private property at #165 Brattle Street, install approximately 130 feet of conduit.

Present: Donna McLaughlin, Susan Barroso and Kelly-Ann Correia.

Summary: Customer requested electric service upgrade. They are requesting to go from 100 amp to 400 amp. The plan provided does not have a survey, which is required for all petitions.

Decision: Continue pending submission of design plan.

Administrative Matters

The following are matters which the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed without accepting, soliciting, or taking public testimony at the hearing. Anyone wishing to be heard on the below should contact the Board at least 24 hours prior to the hearing and/or submit your statement in writing to pandc@cambridqema.gov.

17. Commission Acknowledgement Crown Castle has withdrawn petitions #196954, #217819 and #231091 due to costs.

Summary: These all relate to small cell installations.

Decision: Acknowledged.

18. Consideration of Meeting Minutes - September 18, 2025.

Decision: Approved.

19. Discussion Regarding Double Poles

Summary: The Commission discussed the number of double poles (164) still within city limits. The conditions on the grants of location require the removal, and the Commission tends to additionally flag the issue. There was discussion as to what provisions or tools can be used to ensure that the conditions are met and double poles are removed. There are a number of permits after the grant that could be held up as these get removed. There could be fines also implemented.

Decision: Commissioner Melo to further look into the provisions of the permits and what can be done.

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Minutes Approved: January 22, 2026

MM___ MM/ 

Minutes Posted: January 22, 2026

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